

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-11 (cancelled).

12. (new) A method for joining two workpieces made from plastic, comprising providing a laser source for emitting a laser beam, providing an upper workpiece, comprising a material transparent to the laser beam, and a lower workpiece comprising a material absorbent to the laser beam, wherein mutually bordering contact surfaces for the two workpieces are melted under the effect of the laser beam and joined to one another under pressure and subsequent cooling, providing a machining head having a translucent pressure element and pressing the translucent pressure element onto the upper workpiece wherein a mechanical compression of the workpieces and a guiding of the laser beam are accomplished simultaneously.

13. (new) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the mechanical compression of the workpieces occurs either punctually exactly at a point of infringement where the laser beam hits the contact surfaces or in a region around the point.

14. (new) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the machining head is moved along a line or a contour to be welded while touching the upper workpiece.

15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a dosage of

the compression is performed by the machining head.

16. (new) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a focal plane of the machining head is determined by an IR-transparent pressure element and an integrated lens system and is set by the integrated lens system.

17. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the workpieces are fixed in a first step at one or more defined points with the aid of the machining head and subsequently a line or a contour to be welded is traveled along during a second step.